Mission (NFSM) and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with a view to rejuvenate agriculture and improve farm incomes. It is envisaged that these initiatives along with better implementation of some ongoing schemes, covering irrigation, agriculture credit, insurance, marketing and other inputs, will; help in achieving a four per cent annual growth in agricultural sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The NFSM, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with an Eleventh Plan outlay of Rs. 4,883 crore, aims at increasing foodgrains production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity; creating employment opportunities; and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers in the targeted districts of the country.

The RKVY, with an allocation of Rs. 25,000 crore for; the Eleventh Five Year Plan, aims at incentivising the State Governments to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors and support focused interventions to reduce the yield gaps in important crops.

In the proposal for the Union Budget 2008-09, the Government has announced a Scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers which would cover all agricultural loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions up to March 31, 2007 and overdue as on december 31, 2007. The Government estimates that about 3 crore small and marginal farmers and about 1 crore other farmers will benefit from this scheme. The total value of proposed debt waiver and debt relief is estimated at around Rs. 60,314 crore.

Disparity in income

†1926. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of people are subsisting on a measly twelve rupees and nine rupees daily, while daily income of people outside Government is nearly one crore;

(b) if so, whether Government is making any definitive measures to bridge this huge difference and making any effective plan to raise the standard of living of the poor to enable them to fulfil their basic needs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the Report No. 508, "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05" of NSS 61st Round (July 2004-June, 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13 per cent of the rural population and 7.13 per cent of the urban population in the country is less than Rs. 12 per day. In terms of number, this constitutes 25 crores persons in 2004-05. Further the per capita consumption expenditure of 9.9 per cent of rural population and 4 per cent of urban population in the country is less than Rs. 9 per day in 2004-05. In terms of number, this constitutes 9 crore persons in 2004-05. At the same time, the Per Capita income (at 1999-2000 prices) is Rs. 29,786 in 2007-08.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) In addition to the benefits of increase in income arising from the general growth process, Government is implementing a number of anti-poverty programme which either provide wage or self employment or generate assets to raise the standard of living of poor. The major anti-poverty Schemes are Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarogzar Yojana. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana and Mid-day Meal Scheme.

NPAs of Public Sector Banks

1927. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of public sector banks as on 31 March, 2007;

(b) the total tax arrears as on 31 March, 2007;

(c) the total reserve and surplus of Central PSUs as on 31 March, 2007;

(d) the total foreign exchange reserve as on 31 March, 2007;

(e) whether any part of the above is being targeted as investible surplus;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the total public investment as estimated for 2007-08 in agriculture, health, education social security schemes and infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a), (b) and (d) As on 31st March 2007, the gross Non-performing Assets of public sector banks, total amount of tax arrears of the Government of India on account of Central Excise, Customs Duty, Service Tax and Foreign Exchange Reserves (including gold, Special Drawing Rights and Reserve Tranche Position) are as under:-

Gross NPAs of public sector banks	Tax Arrears	Foreign Exchange Reserve
Rs. 38,974 crore	Rs. 26,375 crore	US$199.18 billion

As far as direct taxes are concerned, the total demand outstanding on 31.3.2007 was Rs. 1,16,453 crore, out of which Rs. 12,539 crore is recoverable for the year 2006-07.

(e) to (g) The entire foreign exchange reserve of the country are invested in multi-currency, multi- market portfolios. The main objectives of such investment are safety and liquidity while maximizing returns.

(c) and (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.